



Prague Security
Studies Institute



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

MESSAGE FROM PSSI'S CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to report that PSSI has entered its eighteenth year of operations as strong as it has ever been. The advantages we have enjoyed from having a transatlantic footprint – with our partner organization PSSI Washington, Inc. – have been especially evident even before the ravages of the global COVID-19 pandemic and a serious downturn in U.S.-China relations. Accordingly, the Institute is well-positioned to provide the kind of policy insights and analyses urgently required by a global audience for what promises to be a continuous struggle in the effort to shape a proper ordering of world affairs and geopolitical priorities, especially in the economic and financial (E&F) and space domains.

Our able staffs in both Prague and Washington, DC have been working overtime in this highly uncertain environment to ensure that the foes of freedom are denied the opportunity to capitalize on the economic and societal ‘shut-downs’ in allied nations or succeed in their campaigns to market their governance systems as holding the key to a safer, better equipped world. To accomplish this mission, we have recalibrated some of our programmatic activities, but not at the expense of our flagship academic initiatives and the security-minded training of Czech and regional students and young professionals.

We have also experienced some important personnel changes, with our much-valued Program Director of thirteen years, Petr Lang, leaving us to pursue new opportunities. We have been joined by a long-time friend and associate of PSSI, Boris Kaliský, as Director of Operations who now reports to Dr. Jana Robinson, who has assumed the position of Managing Director.

We are tackling this historic year of 2020 with vigor, commitment and optimism, anchored in the conviction that the world will emerge from this monumental health crisis stronger and more resilient and that those dedicated to freedom and democracy will illuminate the path ahead.

As in the past, we remain immensely grateful to our donors, supporters and many friends for their belief in PSSI and the values and principles it embodies.



Roger W. Robinson, Jr.
PSSI Chairman and Co-Founder



Peter B. Doran, former President of The Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) talks with the RMSSA students

SECURITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ROBINSON-MARTIN SECURITY SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Academy (RMSSA) is PSSI's core initiative, dating back to the Institute's inception in early 2002. Its central mission is to provide world-class, intensive educational experiences in the field of international security studies for advanced students and young professionals in the Czech Republic and the broader region. We believe that it is essential that security-minded students have access to global luminaries and policy practitioners in this field in small group settings. We also seek to organize and fund regular expert gatherings covering a wide spectrum of cutting-edge security policy challenges.

This two-semester educational program has, to date, trained well over six hundred highly skilled aspiring security professionals. These future policy practitioners are indispensable for safeguarding the hard-won freedoms of the Czech Republic and other post-communist states. The Academy experience has also made them valuable contributors to the region's common security, economic and foreign policy structures like NATO, the EU, the OECD, the IEA and others.

Among the distinguished RMSSA lecturers have been Karel Schwarzenberg, former Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs; Alexandr Vondra, former Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense; Petr Kolář, former Czech Ambassador to Russia and the United States; Karel Kovanda, former Deputy Director General responsible for CFSP, DG RELEX, European Commission; Richard Graber, former US Ambassador to the Czech Republic; Josef Zielenc, former Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Jiří Šedivý, former Chief of Staff of the Czech Armed Forces.

PSSI was the first national security-minded public policy group in the Czech Republic – and one of the first in the region – to take on this kind of educational mission, with the active encouragement and involvement of former Czech President Václav Havel, who chaired PSSI's distinguished International Advisory Board, as well as our beloved Co-Founder and Executive Director, Oldřich Černý, whose legacy will be honored through the brilliant careers of our many alumni.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Since its inception in 2002, PSSI has been working closely with the prestigious Charles University in Prague. In 2006, PSSI began its cooperation with the University by creating a new Master's Degree program in International Security Studies, the first of its kind in the Czech



Jean-Jacques Tortora, Director of the European Space Policy Institute, delivers a lecture entitled "European Space Policy in Global Context" to students of the PSSI's MA Space Security Course

Republic. The program began in the Czech language in 2007 and achieved English-language accreditation in 2012.

The program offers a range of cutting-edge subjects in the field of security studies and equips students with a solid theoretical background and detailed understanding of some of the critical security challenges of our time. Among these subjects are space security, economic and financial warfare, regional conflicts and influence attempts, cyber security, disinformation, hybrid threats, and Russia's and China's malevolent activities in the region.

Two new courses configured by PSSI have been launched in the past few years: "Space Security in the 21st Century" in the fall semester of 2015, and "Economic and Financial Warfare" in the spring semester of 2016. PSSI also continues to coordinate closely with Charles University in organizing lectures with visiting speakers, and host workshops on a range of subjects. PSSI's James Q. Whitaker Security Lecture Series was established at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in 2008 to help anchor this vibrant cooperation.

The primary aim of these lectures is to attract distinguished experts from the global economic, security, and foreign policy communities, academia, and the private sector to share their analytical expertise and first-hand experiences with students.

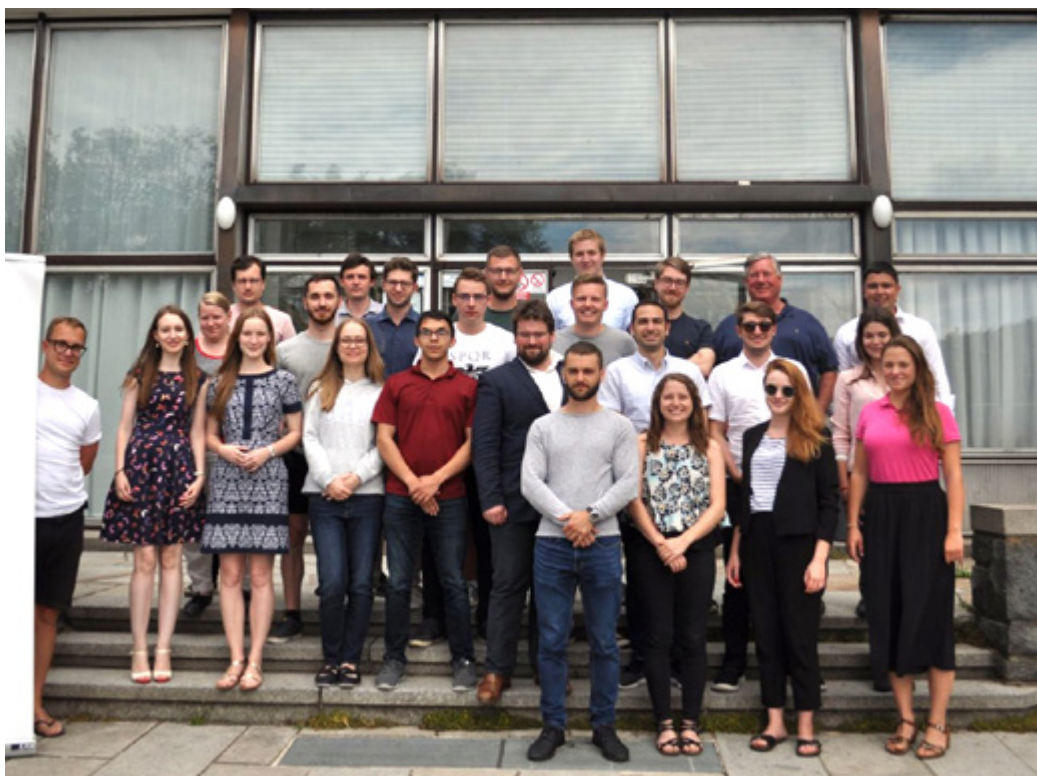
In 2019, PSSI organized four Space Security Guest Lectures, in collaboration with Charles University's Institute of

Political Studies and the American Center. The experts invited for these gatherings were Jean-Jacques Tortora, Director of the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI); Dr. Jan Kolář, Director of the Czech Space Office (CSO); Veronica La Regina, Director of Global Engagement for Europe at Nanoracks; and Tomáš Hrozenský, Resident Research Fellow at the European Space Policy Institute.

In addition to these activities, PSSI sponsors an Oldřich Černý Ph.D. scholarship for one full-time student in a doctoral program in International Relations at Charles University's Institute of Political Studies in the field of Economic and Financial (E&F) Statecraft. Named for the esteemed Co-Founder and former Executive Director of the Institute, the scholarship helps to cover the student's living and related expenses, with the support of Charles University.

It is the intention of PSSI to assist Charles University in building an ever-growing core of professional E&F analysts and policy-makers trained to understand and counter the subtle and sophisticated form of hybrid warfare and soft power projection practiced by Russia, China and other actual or potential adversaries.

In 2019, during a Gala Dinner held on the occasion of the Fifth PSSI Space Security Conference, the Institute announced its latest expansion of its academic activities with Charles University. PSSI's Chairman and Co-Founder, Roger W. Robinson Jr., and the Vice-Rector of Charles University, Jan



Participants of the 2019 PSSI's NATO Summer School

Konvalinka, jointly unveiled a new four-year Ph.D. scholarship in the field of Space Security, which is co-sponsored by PSSI. The Ph.D. scholarship is named in memory of the Honorable William P. Clark, the former National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan, who was responsible for shepherding through to reality the Strategic Defense Initiative on the President's behalf.

PSSI NATO SUMMER SCHOOL

For the fifteenth consecutive year, with the support of NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, the U.S. Embassy in Prague and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PSSI organized a summer school session entitled "NATO in the Age of Hybrid Warfare", held between June 30-July 5, 2019, in Orlík, Czech Republic.

Each year, our NATO Summer School attracts some 25 highly qualified graduate students and young professionals from NATO member states and partner countries to participate in a week-long series of lectures, workshops, and simulations. About a dozen nations are generally represented.

This year, students participated in morning lectures and afternoon workshops, supplemented by a six-day simulation of an international crisis in the Black Sea region. Each group of students represented a different NATO member state or partner country and was tasked with initiating policy measures

and negotiating with the other groups to advance their overall strategic objectives in the region.

The simulation concluded with a mock NATO Summit in which the NATO member states negotiated terms for de-escalation and a return to some semblance of stability in the Black Sea region. Each day, the summer school hosted some three distinguished security practitioners and leading academics, who delivered lectures on topics ranging from NATO's preparedness for hybrid warfare to cyber security of its Member States, as well as new areas of security including the space and economic & financial domains.

This prestigious gathering continued a tradition of attracting prominent security policy practitioners such as Jan Havránek, Policy Advisor at the Policy Planning Unit of the Office of the NATO SG; Ondřej Rojčík, Head of the Department of Strategic Information and Analyses for the Czech National Cyber and Information Security Agency; Jan Padourek, former Deputy Director-General for Analysis and Foreign Relations of the Office of Foreign Relations and Information; Elisabeth Braw, Director of RUSI's Modern Deterrence project; Martin Michelot, Deputy Director of EUROPEUM Prague; Patrick Cullen, Senior Research Fellow for the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI); and Lt. Col. Otakar Foltýn of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic.



Participants of PSSI's "Security Academy for Young Politicians" program

SECURITY ACADEMY FOR YOUNG POLITICIANS

The Security Academy for Young Politicians was offered to members of youth organizations of democratic political parties in order to improve their capabilities in the security field. The session took place in April 2019. The lectures for participants focused on the Euro-Atlantic partnership, Czech-German security cooperation, and hybrid threats. During the workshop, among other activities, the attendees prepared and delivered a political speech on a security-related theme. The program was supported by the U.S. Embassy in the Czech Republic and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in the Czech Republic.

In the course of the symposium, PSSI also organized a public roundtable commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of NATO. The opening remarks were delivered by the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Stephen B. King, and the Head of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung – Prague, Matthias Barner. Diplomat Veronika Kuchyňová Šmigolová (Director of the Americas Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and journalist Daniel Anýž (Aktualne.cz) discussed the challenges and opportunities for the transatlantic partnership in the 21st century. The discussion was moderated by Martin Svárovský, Director of the Security Strategies Program at the European Values think tank.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS & SECURITY ANALYSIS: NEWSROOM PERSPECTIVE

The Prague Security Studies Institute conducted a new project in 2019 entitled "Foreign Affairs & Security Analysis: Newsroom Perspective" for students of journalism and early career journalists. The main aim of the project was to create a deeper understanding of foreign and security policy-related issues, introduce the practical experience of journalists from the UK to the Czech environment, and foster contacts between Czech and UK media professionals. The two-day program was sponsored by the British Embassy in Prague.

On the first day, students of journalism had a chance to discuss various issues concerning a career in journalism with Defense and Security Correspondent for The Independent, Kim Sengupta, Foreign Correspondent for The Telegraph Matthew Day, and Christian Davies, a correspondent for The Guardian & Observer based in Warsaw. As part of the workshop, the students had an opportunity to conduct interviews with the above-mentioned foreign experts.

The second day of the program was dedicated to young journalists, who were able to discuss issues ranging from forms of unwanted pressure journalists face to reporting from conflict zones with Jakub Szántó from Czech Television, Warsaw-based correspondent Matthew Day, and The Independent's Kim Sengupta. During



Cyber Security Expert Oren Elimelech delivers a lecture during PSSl's Cyber Security Academy

the workshop, participants drafted their own articles on relevant security/foreign policy issues under the supervision of Kim Sengupta, Matthew Day, and the editor-in-chief of Transitions Online, Jeremy Druker.

CYBER SECURITY ACADEMY

In 2019, PSSl organized its second Cyber Security Academy. The program was developed in cooperation with the Czech National Cyber and Information Security Agency, and was supported by KPMG Czech Republic, ERA BHC, the U.S. Embassy in Prague, the British Embassy in Prague, the Prague Embassy of the State of Israel, and the Embassy of Estonia in Prague. The week-long course was hosted by the American Center in Prague and the opening remarks were delivered by the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Stephen B. King.

The topics discussed included security aspects of 5G, cyber exercises, the US Cyber Strategy, information warfare and information security. Distinguished lecturers included Max Smeets, senior researcher at ETH Zürich; Jakub Kalenský, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council and former team lead for countering disinformation at the European Union's East StratCom Task Force; Oren Elimelech, Israel Ministry of Transport and Road Safety; Keir Giles, Chatham House; Merle Maigre, former Director of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence; and others.

Following the Cyber Security Academy, PSSl co-organized a public seminar on cyber security. Dr. Michael Hsieh, Transformative Cyber Innovation Lab Executive Director from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and Jakub Otčenášek from the National Cyber and Information Security Agency discussed data loss prevention, specifically the typology of cyber attackers, their motivation and methods to defend against them. The event was organized in cooperation with the American Center.

The Prague Security Studies Institute also published a study focusing on cyber security in the financial sector. The aim of the report was to highlight the latest legislative and regulatory developments at the crossroads of cyber security and the financial sector, underlining cooperation between the private and public sectors. The overall aim was to analyze three select challenges in the financial sector that are closely linked to cyber security or security more broadly. The report addressed: (1) risks related to the implementation of innovations, including open banking and PSD2, the use of Artificial intelligence (AI) and the Cloud strategy; (2) risks related to the emergence of FinTech startups, including cyber risks and the link between startups, data privacy and national security; and (3) risks related to the development of digital currencies, including cybercrime, sanction evasion and the future of digital currency worldwide.



From right to left: PSSI's Chairman and Co-Founder, Roger W. Robinson Jr., the Vice-Rector of the Charles University, Jan Konvalinka, Dr. Vít Střítecký and Dr. Běla Plechanová from the Institute of Political Studies, Charles University

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL THREAT PROGRAM

The national security dimensions of global economic and financial (E&F) relations are increasingly prevalent in an ever-more interdependent world. Sanctions are more commonplace and varied, as are the measures taken to circumvent them. PSSI has long recognized this reality, and launched a program dedicated to the education of the security and military communities of allied nations, academia, private sector entities, and non-governmental organizations. The program sets out to identify various modalities of E&F statecraft and warfare as practiced by adversaries of NATO and its allies (notably China and Russia). This program addresses the strategic use of forward-deployed, state-controlled enterprises by prospective adversaries, and the abuses taking place within the legitimate international trading and financial systems to advance their agendas on a daily basis.

PSSI refers to this field as the Economic and Financial Threat Domain, an issue area that is becoming increasingly integrated into the training, planning, readiness and operations of allied militaries and security communities more broadly. It is also a portfolio that is increasingly compelling to security-minded policy-makers as a non-

kinetic option for deterrence and crisis management in a policy space utterly dominated by the U.S. and its allies.

PSSI has invested heavily in producing E&F reports for allied policy-makers on a range of issues. The Institute's experience in this domain dates back to before the Reagan Administration, and includes over four decades of risk management and senior policy-making expertise.

PSSI's principals have developed an open-source software tool called IntelTrak, which tracks and visually maps every Russian and Chinese external business transaction globally on a daily basis. This extensive database now goes back some eight years. (<http://www.rwradvisory.com/services/inteltrak/>).

ECONOMIC WARFARE COURSE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Launched in 2015, the PSSI-sponsored "Economic Warfare" course at Charles University is designed to introduce students to the economic foundations of national power and the various modalities or strategies to exercise this power to achieve national goals. The course illuminates the interdependencies of today's globalized economy and the kinds of abuses by malevolent state actors that can take place within legitimate international trading and financial systems to advance agendas inconsistent with democratic principles and values during both war and peacetime (e.g. nation-capturing, economic extortion, unwitting funding of hostile ac-



From right: Pavel Fischer, Chairperson of the Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security; PSSI's former Program Director, Petr Lang; and Ota Šimák, Deputy Director of the Trade Policy Unit at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, during a public roundtable on foreign direct investment

tivities, etc.). It also provides historical context for the ways in which economic warfare has evolved over time as a policy tool.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE APPROACH TOWARDS CHINA: V4+ AND THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

For China, the Balkans and the Visegrad region represent a gateway to European markets. While some stakeholders recommend taking full advantage of opportunities stemming from China's rise, there has been a dearth of discussion on the national security implications of increased Chinese trade and capital flows. "Comparative Analysis of the Approach Towards China: V4+ and the Belt and Road Initiative" sought to explore these implications.

In February 2019, PSSI organized a closed roundtable with its project partners (listed below). The event was focused on Chinese investment activities in V4 countries and Serbia and the related opportunities and risks.

PSSI also organized a public roundtable, entitled "How to Secure Key Economic Sectors Against High Risk Investments?". The roundtable presented risks connected with non-market economic behavior of foreign powers and offered insights into the development of the EU foreign direct investment (FDI) screening framework. Among the speakers were Pavel Fischer, Member of the Senate and Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence

and Security; and Ota Šimák, Deputy Director, Trade Policy Unit, Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The final report of the project was published in June 2019. The findings included, among others, that while China's role in each of the analyzed countries' economies has grown over the last decade, developments have not been uniform, and each country's assessment concerning China's impact on national security constitutes a critical factor in judging the desirability of further participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The project was sponsored by the International Visegrad Fund. Project partners included the Institute of Asian Studies (Slovakia), the HAS Centre for Economic and Regional Studies and the Institute of World Economics (Hungary), the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (Serbia), and the Centre for International Relations (Poland).

TECHNOLOGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, DATA & SECURITY NEWSLETTER

In 2019, PSSI published a monthly TIDS Newsletter, which provided subscribers with the latest updates and analysis on Technology, Infrastructure, Data & Security in the context of the Czech Republic and Central Europe, with a particular focus on cyber and economic and financial security considerations.



From left: Then-U.S. Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Andrea L. Thompson, with PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, at the Fifth PSSI Space Security Conference

SPACE SECURITY PROGRAM

PSSI believes that the security and sustainability of the space environment are essential to the day-to-day lives of Earth's inhabitants and that not enough is being done to protect space-related assets and services. Should access to, and the use of, space be compromised, particularly by the irresponsible and/ or malevolent actions of certain spacefaring nations, the harm that could be done would likely be both immediate and catastrophic. Accordingly, the Institute launched a program in 2010 dedicated solely to space security – the first such program in the region.

SPACE SECURITY CONFERENCE SERIES

PSSI's Space Security Conference series is the flagship initiative of this program. To date, five such international gatherings have taken place (three in Europe, one in Japan, and one in the U.S.) that brought together high-level government officials, private sector executives, and NGO and former policy practitioners, as well as other experts from the space communities in Europe, the U.S. and Japan.

On June 9–11, 2019, in Prague, PSSI convened its fifth Space Security Conference, entitled “Evolution of the

Counterspace Threat and Strengthening of International Space Partnerships”. The event focused on the rapidly advancing threats to space operations and the role of space partnerships in addressing – and, hopefully, mitigating – this higher-risk environment. The nature of international space partnerships was put center stage, as China and Russia pursue a non-democratic model of governance aimed at, in effect, the vertical integration of recipient countries' space sectors to assert their influence or outright control – a phenomenon that PSSI terms “space sector capture”.

PSSI was especially pleased to welcome as keynote speakers Andrea Thompson, then-U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Lt. Gen. David D. Thompson, Vice Commander of the U.S. Air Force Space Command, Toshihiko Kasahara, Deputy Director of Japan's Cabinet Satellite Intelligence Center, Carine Claeys, Special Envoy for Space at the European External Action Service, and Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Chief Strategy Officer at the European Space Agency, seconded to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Among some 150 attendees, speakers and sponsors were representatives from governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as the private sector. They included the European External Action Service, the European Space Agency (ESA), the UK Space Agency, the French Space Agency (CNES), DLR Space Administration, the French Ministry



PSSI's Senior Fellow, Dr. John P. Stopher, addresses the attendees of the Washington Space Business Roundtable

of Defence, the German Ministry of Defence, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Air Force Space Command, the Secure World Foundation, the European Space Policy Institute, the Institute for Defense Analysis, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, IHI Aerospace, the Analytical Graphics, and others.

At the gala dinner on the first full day of the event, PSSI's Chairman and Co-Founder Roger W. Robinson Jr. and the Vice-Rector of the Charles University Jan Konvalinka jointly unveiled a new four-year Ph.D. scholarship in the field of Space Security awarded by PSSI. The Ph.D. scholarship is named in memory of the Honorable William P. Clark, National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan, who brought the Strategic Defense Initiative into being on the President's behalf.

At one of the Conference panels, PSSI also released the Executive Summary of its Report entitled "State Actor Strategies in Attracting Space Sector Partnerships: Chinese and Russian Economic and Financial (E&F) Footprints." The document tracks and visually maps, as well as analyses, space-related transactions of China and Russia globally over a number of years.

SPACE SECURITY COURSE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY

This course was established and sponsored by our Institute, with the cooperation of Charles University, within the University's

Master's Degree in International Security Studies under the Faculty of Social Sciences in 2015. The course is designed to explore the security dimensions of space from policy, regulatory, and technical perspectives. It is structured from the viewpoint of strategic studies and is consistent with other courses in this fine MA degree program.

The central objective of the guest lectures is to offer students the opportunity to interact with distinguished policy practitioners who manage various aspects of space security. These include safe access to, and operations in space, security of satellites, links and ground infrastructure, as well as various threats ranging from unintentional interference to counterspace operations. The lectures have also examined the status of international space governance, including various initiatives to strengthen the existing legal structures. Past lecturers included senior experts from the International Telecommunication Union, the European External Action Service, the European Commission, Czech and Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, George Washington University, the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, the European Space Policy Institute, and the Secure World Foundation.

In 2019, the lectures were delivered by Jean-Jacques Tortora, Director of the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) and Tomáš Hrozenský, also from ESPI, Jan Kolář, Director of the Czech Space Office, and Veronica La Regina, Director for Global Engagement, Europe, Nanoracks.



Lt Gen David D. Thompson, Vice Commander, United States Air Force Space Command with PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, during the Fifth PSSI Space Security Conference

OTHER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

In May 2019, PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, contributed to the 16th annual Space Security Index Working Group meeting hosted by McGill University in Montreal. The Space Security Index, an annual report seeking to support space security-related discussions, is jointly sponsored by the Institute of Air and Space Law at McGill University, the Research Unit for Military Law and Ethics at the University of Adelaide, and Project Ploughshares, and supported by George Washington University's Space Policy Institute.

Dr. Robinson also contributed to the NATO Advanced Research Workshop, entitled "Critical Space Infrastructure: From Risk to Resilience", hosted by the Old Dominion University in Norfolk on May 21-22, 2019 and supported by the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme. Her presentation focused on risks to space operations stemming from space hybrid threats, with a particular focus on the cyber and economic & financial dimensions.

In June 2019, she delineated counterspace challenges at the inaugural Summit for Space Sustainability, organized by the Secure World Foundation in Washington, DC. Her presentation focused on state actor threats, especially space hybrid operations and how they relate to space sustainability. Dr. Robinson also introduced the economic and financial dimensions of space security, a new subject that PSSI believes will become far more prominent in the fairly near-term.

Dr. Jana Robinson was elected in summer 2019 to become a Full Member for Section 4 – Social Sciences – of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). The formal acceptance ceremony was held at the annual IAA Awards Gala Dinner that took place on October 20, 2019, during the 2019 International Astronautical Congress in Washington, DC.

In October 2019, PSSI took part in, and contributed to, the 70th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) held on October 21–25, 2019, in Washington, DC. The theme of last year's Congress was "Space: The Power of the Past, the Promise of the Future". PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, co-chaired, together with Dr. Ray Williamson, former Executive Director of the Secure World Foundation and Dr. Peter Stubbe, DLR, the Technical Session E3.4 entitled "Assuring a Safe, Secure and Sustainable Environment for Space Activities", in which twelve scholars presented their research papers. PSSI also took part in other sessions of the IAC, including those organized by the International Academy of Astronautics and the International Institute of Space Law.

In December 2019, PSSI contributed to an Ad Hoc Seminar of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium that took place in Brussels. The goal of this seminar was an international exchange concerning ongoing initiatives to promote the safety, security and sustainability of space and shape a voluntary mechanism



PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, contributes to the NATO Advanced Research Workshop, entitled "Critical Space Infrastructure: From Risk to Resilience"

to establish standards of responsible behavior for this domain. PSSI's Space Security Program Director, Dr. Jana Robinson, moderated a discussion on the "Knowledge and Monitoring of the Space Environment", which is fundamental to all space operations.

Finally, PSSI took part in the eighth EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference, which took place in Brussels on December 13–14, 2019. The aim of the Conference was to contribute to the implementation of the EU Global Strategy by providing recommendations on EU non-proliferation and disarmament policies. The event was organized by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) on behalf of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC). PSSI was represented by its Space Security Program Assistant, Patrik Martínek.

REGIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM

PSSI's Regional Security Program seeks to identify and analyze emerging foreign policy and security-related issues that will increasingly affect and influence the transatlantic security policy community. At times, these challenges exceed the scope of the traditional political-military agenda that effectively dominated the public policy space in the previous century. Less visible, unconventional methods of warfare are gaining traction among adversaries, including sophisticated cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, counterspace activities, and hybrid warfare methods, which are often driven by economic and financial warfighting priorities.

WESTERN BALKANS AT THE CROSSROADS

In March 2018, PSSI launched a project entitled "Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Assessing Non-Democratic External Influence Activities", which was sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy. The first round of the project was concluded in June 2019, and a follow-up 18-month-long second round of the project started in October 2019, this time under the title "Ways Forward in Analyzing External Actors' Influence."



PSSI's Program Manager, Jonáš Syrovátka, speaks at the "Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Assessing the Influence of External Actors" conference

In the past couple of years, former Yugoslav states including Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo have been confronted with a wave of rising ethnic and social tensions, authoritarian gains and corruption scandals. These tumultuous events have led to democratic backsliding in a number of cases. Serious vulnerabilities have emerged in this volatile region and are being exploited by non-democratic external powers for the purpose of increasing their political leverage.

These external actors aim to achieve tactical and strategic gains, with the ultimate goal of obstructing further integration of the Western Balkans into the EU and/or NATO. The Balkans have historically been viewed as a zone of great power rivalry, and shrinking European and US involvement in the past decade has created an opportunity for other players to strengthen their footholds.

The first phase of the project (March 2018–June 2019) aimed at identifying and mapping non-Western influence, specifically focusing on Russian, Chinese, Turkish, and Gulf States engagements in five post-Yugoslav and non-EU member countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Kosovo. It presented its findings and recommendations to local and international experts, civil society, the media, and the public through six thematic briefs, a series of articles, a comprehensive final publication, a policy paper and a conference report.

The second phase of the project (October 2019–March 2021) has continued to build on the knowledge established in the first phase. It focuses on in-depth socially rooted research and investigative journalism. Its design reflects our aim to go beyond conventional analytical frameworks, overcoming ideologically constructed stereotypes and methodological nationalism while combining a variety of methodological approaches. Project outputs will consist of fifteen analytical studies, fifteen journalistic articles drawing on their findings, a reflection paper and a collective monograph.

In the framework of the project, in 2019, PSSI co-organized, with the Institute of International Relations, a conference entitled "Western Balkans at the Crossroads: Assessing the Influence of External Actors". The event was held under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry's Department of Foreign Policy Analysis and Planning.

The invited speakers assessed the influence of all external actors playing a role in the region in a changing global dynamic marked by worsening Western relations with Russia, fears of Chinese economic expansion, increasingly tense relations with Turkey, and a more robust presence of the Gulf states. In this context, they discussed the current challenges and vulnerabilities of Western Balkan countries, as well as the foreign policy objectives and strategies of external actors and their interconnections.



Director of Modern Deterrence at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, Elisabeth Braw, and Policy Advisor at the Office of the NATO Secretary General, Jan Havránek, during a public discussion at the “New Perspectives on Shared Security – NATO’s Next 70 Years” conference

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON SHARED SECURITY – NATO'S NEXT 70 YEARS

In May 2019, the Prague Security Studies Institute organized an international conference focusing on the future of NATO. The event consisted of two expert workshops and a public debate.

The first workshop addressed the topic of “The Geopolitics of Energy Security in Europe”. The main objective of this closed workshop was to assess and analyze the factors influencing the energy security of NATO member states. Specifically, it provided the participating experts and, at a later stage, the wider NATO community (through the publication of an analytical report) with thought-provoking and cross-domain scenarios focusing on: (1) the potential developments in energy security if Russia strengthens its position as a major energy supplier; (2) the potentially destabilizing factor of the decarbonization of the European economy for MENA economies and societies; and (3) assessing the potential risks posed by China’s investments in critical infrastructure for the energy security of NATO’s member states.

The second workshop focused on NATO’s current and future challenges and opportunities. The closed expert session aimed to identify not only current and future security challenges for the Alliance, but also opportunities to safeguard and maintain its position, as a proactive, future-oriented, and innovative guarantor of the security of its member states.

The concluding public event explored the opportunities and challenges facing the Alliance in near future. The panelists also discussed NATO’s contribution to preserving peace and stability in Europe, with a strong emphasis on the experience of the Central European member states, both from political and military perspectives. The discussion was chaired by Policy Advisor at the Office of the NATO Secretary General, Jan Havránek. The panelists included Director of Modern Deterrence at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, Elisabeth Braw; Head of the Brussels office of the Antall Centre, Ildikó Voller-Szenci; and Co-Founder of the Slovak Security Policy Institute, Monika Masariková.

CZECH ELECTION IN THE ERA OF DISINFORMATION

This initiative sought to discern the techniques, modalities, and potential of various disinformation campaigns—pro-Kremlin or otherwise—and their proliferation during the Czech Parliamentary, Presidential, Senate and European Parliamentary Elections in 2017–2019. Using a software tool developed by the Beacon Project of the International Republican Institute, the Czech elections were monitored not only for their content, but also for the accuracy of the information being spread. Thanks to the software, PSSI was also able to determine the reach and audience of the disinformation narratives.

In 2019, the project focused on the European Parliamentary elections. PSSI



PSSI's Project Coordinator, Tereza Barbra Kupková, speaks at the panel entitled "The Risks and Rewards of the New World Reorder" at the Europe Think Tank Summit 2019 in Madrid

published both a Report on the elections and a study of the most common myths about the EU in the Czech Republic.

VACCINATION AND DISINFORMATION IN THE CZECH INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT

We are confronted with the era of "The Web 2.0", where everybody can easily spread and promote their own messages and, via the potential of social networks and other communication channels, reach a significant number of people. Despite the many advantages technological progress has brought, many issues with information overload have emerged as well. The Internet has also become a go-to platform for the public to acquire health care and other health-related information. The issue of misleading health-related data flows and their potential impact on one's decision-making has become a matter of significant interest, and even concern. For example, in light of the WHO declaring growing anti-vaccine sentiments one of the top 10 health threats for 2019, sentiments which have coincided with the heightened recurrence of measles across the globe, it is likely that false information has the ability to influence public health.

Based on the current international debate pertaining to the influence of so-called anti-vaccination movements, and the role of misinformation in public health in general, the main aim of this project was to determine whether Czech websites known to be spreading misleading content are publishing manipulative articles about

vaccinations. The disinformation websites' content was analyzed with a special focus on the negative reporting concerning vaccination. The final study of the project was published in June 2019.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS: A COMPARISON OF CZECH AND POLISH PERSPECTIVES

The decline of traditional media and expansion of social networks has changed the shape of the information environment and has motivated countries to apply new approaches to communication. Effective, coordinated and clear communication of a country's strategic priorities is one of the main instruments for building trust between citizens and state institutions. In Central Europe, this capacity is currently rather underdeveloped. Accordingly, PSSI launched a project focusing on the evaluation of communication capabilities of the Czech and Polish government institutions. The project presented a case study of the current government communications campaign "#WeAreNATO" related to the anniversary of the countries' accession to NATO. The study also included practical recommendations that might help improve the state of national strategic communication.

This project was supported by the Czech-Polish Forum at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and was implemented in cooperation with the Center for Propaganda and Disinformation Analysis Foundation (CAPD).



Stephen B. King, the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, delivers opening remarks at PSSl's Cyber Security Academy

PSSI WASHINGTON

In the fall of 2006, PSSl Washington Inc. was established in Washington, DC. Its primary mission is to strengthen U.S. understanding of the security challenges facing Central and Eastern Europe, and other post-communist states and pursue ground-breaking initiatives in the economic & financial and space domains. PSSl Washington's China/Russia Capital Markets Transparency Initiative, for example, is the leading work program in this field worldwide. This partner organization of PSSl Prague has gained a good deal of stature in the United States and is a leading source of research and data on China's expanding presence in America's capital markets and that of Russia as well. It is likewise the principal hub of PSSl's Space Security Program and convenes periodic, co-sponsored conferences and roundtables in this and other fields in Washington and elsewhere. More information can be found at www.pssiwashington.org

ALUMNI NETWORK

PSSI's Alumni Network is designed to connect, support, embrace and recognize the growing PSSl "extended family", now almost 1500 strong, and to facilitate information exchanges for these young professionals who have participated in PSSl's various educational programs. Specifically, these graduates successfully completed one or more of PSSl's educational initiatives: the Robinson-Martin Security Scholars Academy; our co-sponsored Charles University Master's Degree Program in International Security Studies; PSSl's long-running NATO Summer School; our Interagency Civilian-Military Training Program, our Energy Security and Cyber Security Academies and others. Our Alumni project is primarily communicated and organized through social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn. The Institute organizes a number of informal alumni events and gatherings annually to facilitate career-related exchanges and informal interactions between our present students and distinguished alumni.



The Prague Security Studies Institute's team at the Fifth PSSI Space Security Conference

PERFORMANCE IN RANKINGS

The Prague Security Studies Institute was again honored to be ranked among the top think tanks in the world in 6 categories, according to the latest edition of the “Global Go To Think Tank Index”. The Index is produced by The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, which surveys and ranks some 8,100 NGOs worldwide.

We are pleased to report that in 2019 PSSI was ranked as the #7 top Think Tank in Central and Eastern Europe (including Russia).

PSSI was also #62 in the world among both the Top Defense and National Security Think Tanks and the Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks.

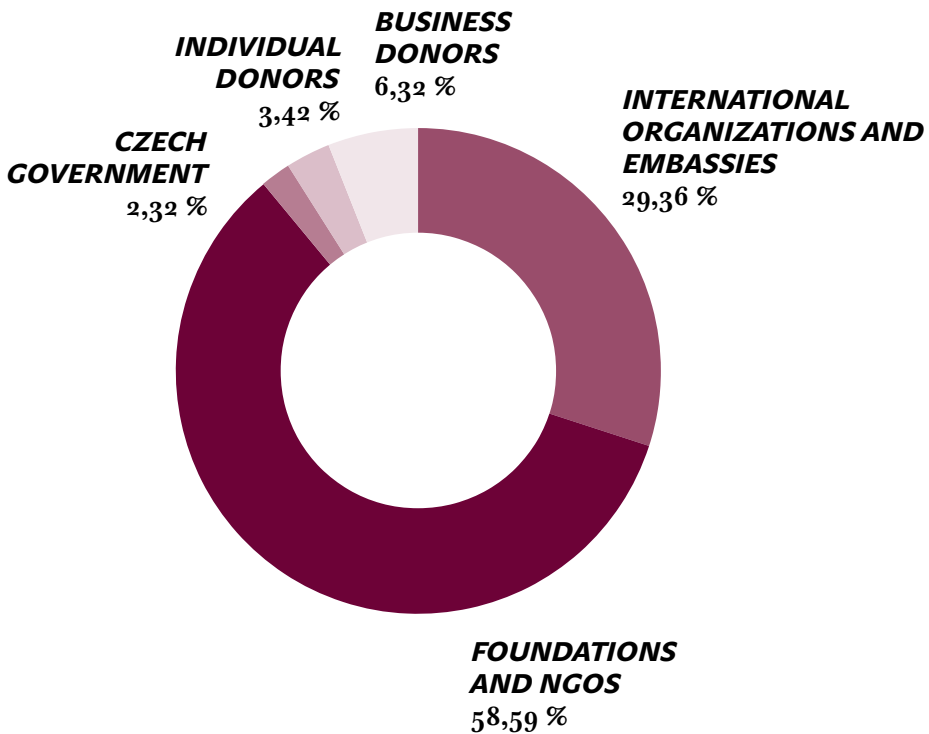
PSSI was ranked #59 among the Best Managed Think Tanks globally. The Index also positioned PSSI as #28 in the world on the list of the Think Tanks to Watch in 2020. PSSI has been in the “top ten” rankings for the region for many years and is the number one ranked think tank in the Czech Republic. We will not disappoint those watching and supporting our progress in the years ahead, as PSSI is primed to make unique contributions to our common security and prosperity.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FUNDING SOURCES

- Bawd Foundation
- British Embassy in Prague
- Center for Propaganda and Disinformation Analysis
- Centre for International Relations
- Embassy of Israel in Prague
- Embassy of the United States in Prague
- European Commission Representation in Prague
- European Space Agency
- German Aerospace Center
- Globsec
- IHI Aerospace Co., Ltd.
- International Visegrad Fund
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
- KPMG
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
- Mitsubishi Electric
- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
- National Endowment for Democracy
- NATO
- NEC Corporation
- Political Capital
- PSSI Washington
- Sarah Scaife Foundation
- Secure World Foundation
- The William H. Donner Foundation, Inc
- Yoshio Matsumi

STRUCTURE OF REVENUES



ABOUT PSSI

THE PRAGUE SECURITY STUDIES INSTITUTE (PSSI) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in early 2002 to advance the building of just, secure, democratic, free market societies in the Czech Republic and other post-communist states. PSSI's mission is to educate and train an ever-growing number of informed and security-minded policy practitioners dedicated to the development and protection of democratic values, principles and institutions. PSSI offers programs that help meet the critical requirements associated with equipping new generations of young leaders to manage the complex, security-related challenges of the 21st century.

To advance its mission, PSSI conducts a broad range of activities under its Security Scholars Program, Space Security Program, Economic & Financial Threat Program, and Regional Security Program. PSSI concentrates on identifying and analyzing geopolitical flashpoints and emerging threats regionally and globally and to propose sound and achievable policy options to deter and defeat hybrid warfare strategies and other forms of external aggression or extortion. The Institute is highly selective in the issue areas it covers and focuses on less developed, but high value, security portfolios.

in memoriam

- Václav Havel, *International Advisory Board Member (2002–2011)*
- Oldřich Černý, *Co-Founder and Executive Director (2002–2012)*
- Elie Wiesel, *International Advisory Board Member (2002–2016)*

international advisory board

- Dennis C. Blair
- R. James Woolsey
- Alexandr Vondra
- Timothy Garton Ash
- Michael Žantovský
- Adam Michnik
- Robert Pfaltzgraff
- H.R.H. Prince Hassan
- Karel Schwarzenberg
- Madeleine Albright
- Petr Kolář
- Jiří Schneider

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Your Support is Appreciated

As the Institute is expanding its activities and regional outreach, we would welcome your support in these efforts.

PSSI's Bank Account

PSSI Account is located at the Komerční banka, a.s. (Na Příkopě 33, 11407 Prague 1, Czech Republic): IBAN CZ7401000000512281850237 BIC/SWIFT Code: KOMBCZPP

Tax deductible contributions from the US can be made to PSSI through the Institute's tax-exempt partner organization, PSSI Washington, 1010 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20007. E-mail: adavenport@pssiwashington.org, tel.: +1-202-342-0696